



UK Targets Wikipedia

August 7, 2025

It would be nice if Wikipedia were suing to challenge the United Kingdom's entire Online Safety Act, not just the provision that most directly targets Wikipedia.

Better something than nothing, however.

As Wikipedia [describes](#) it, the Act “creates a new duty of care for online platforms, requiring them to take action against illegal content, or legal content that could be ‘harmful’ to children where children are likely to access it. Platforms failing this duty would be liable to fines of up to £18 million or 10% of their annual turnover, whichever is higher.”

The Wikipedia Foundation [objects](#) to being classified as

a category 1 service under the Act, a designation that imposes digital ID requirements on its contributors.

“Privacy is central to how we keep users safe and empowered,” says Phil Bradley-Schmieg, lead counsel for the Wikipedia Foundation. “Designed for social media, this is just one of several category 1 duties that could seriously harm Wikipedia.”

“Designed for social media”—in other words, *do it to the other guys, not us.*

“Volunteer communities working in more than 300 languages could be exposed to data breaches, stalking, vexatious lawsuits, or even imprisonment by authoritarian regimes,” Bradley-Schmieg adds.

True. But won't those risks also be faced by those who surf in to say something on a social media platform and suddenly find themselves confronted with age-verification—ID—demands?

We need a tsunami of lawsuits against the UK's global assault on privacy and freedom of speech.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.